

Michael F. Easley
Governor



State of North Carolina
Office of the Governor

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N.C. SCHOOL BOARDS ASSOCIATION ENDORSE EASLEY'S BUDGET PLAN

RALEIGH – The North Carolina School Boards Association announced its support for Gov. Mike Easley's budget reform proposals and his 2003-04 budget framework.

NCSBA, which represents all 117 local school boards in the state, supports Easley's proposal to freeze the current sales tax structure and urged the General Assembly to adopt a budget that supports K-12 public education.

"The Governor's budget is a positive attempt to protect the classroom from harmful cuts," said Dr. Ed Dunlap, executive director of NCSBA. "With our state facing a potential shortfall of \$1.6 to \$2 billion, extending the current tax structure—including the half-cent sales tax—would be a responsible move generating millions of dollars that could be used for public education."

In addition to NCSBA's endorsement, the North Carolina Association of Educators, North Carolina Association of School Administrators, North Carolina Citizens for Business and Industry and the state's chamber of commerce have announced support for the Governor's budget proposals.

"I am pleased to have the support of our local school boards," Gov. Easley said. "We have made tremendous progress in education and my budget will continue this trend. Maintaining our investments in education is critical for all children to have the opportunity to excel in a global economy."

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